

**TOY DISTRICT/DOWNTOWN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT  
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
JULY 28, 2009  
MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**Present:** Ernie Doizaki, Howard Klein, Matt Klein, Larry Rauch, Mark Shinbane, Michael Tansey and Paul Vert.

**Absent:** Donald Kanner, Richard Gardner, Richard Meruelo and Bill Shinbane.

**STAFF:** Raquel King, Estela Lopez and Vicky McCormick.

**CONSULTANTS:** Qathryn Brehm, Ken Coelho and Don Steier.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vert called the meeting to order with a quorum at 12:15pm.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Tansey made a motion to approve the June 23, 2009 minutes, and H. Klein seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

**IV. FINANCE**

Coelho reported that in June the Toy District received \$166,000 of assessment revenue. Expenses were under budget by \$6,000 for the month, which includes \$3,000 under in the maintenance contract. At the end of June, Toy has a total of \$255,000 in the bank. Projecting forward there could be a surplus of \$22,000, but with six months to go till year end, Toy will more likely end the year even.

**Coelho reported that DID received just under \$513,000 of assessment revenue in June. Expenses were under budget by \$11,000, which includes \$7,000 in the maintenance contract, and \$3,000 in the security contract. Ending cash in the DID account as of June 30<sup>th</sup> is \$761,000.**

**Coelho informed the Board that he included a line item to establish a reserve, and the reserve is included in the projected ending cash amount. The 2009 reserve for DID is \$50,000. With the \$50,000 for reserve removed, DID is still projected to end the year with \$90,000. These funds will be used for one time fees.**

**Tansey asked if funds from prior years could be carried forward, and Coelho informed the Board that they could but, could only be used for one-time costs.**

**Coelho reported that after selling the two surveillance cameras to the Toy District, the Prior DID account has a balance of \$44,000 and a liability of \$14,000. Therefore, the true balance in the DID One account is \$30,000.**

**Lopez informed the Board that the air conditioning units were not working properly, and that staff would obtain three bids for a new units. There are a total of three units, which will cost up to \$30,000 to purchase three units.**

**Coelho stated that the purchase for new air conditioning units could be paid out of the current operating budget instead of one time expenses.**

## **V. DID BID RENEWAL**

**Lopez reported that 83% of the property owners approved the renewal of the BID. The Mayor's office just completed the ordinance, and the City contract will be drafted within the next week. Lopez informed the Board that there was no opposition present at the public hearing. Lopez stated that the BID got renewed with a substantial increase, which is very impressive. The new budget is \$1.835 million per year. This amount allows**

**for pressure washing and a computer aided district management system.**

**Lopez thanked the Board members and the CCEA staff for their diligent efforts in getting support from the property owners. Staff had to use enormous search resources to find certain property owners.**

## **VI. OPERATIONS**

**Toy:**

**McCormick reported that the number of bulky items collected decreased 50% in June compared to prior months. The number of trash bags collected in June was 7,263. McCormick informed the Board that in efforts to reduce illegal dumping and identify the perpetrators, the BID started a new program implementing colored trash bags. The BID maintenance team informed the merchants that the BID will only pick up pedestrian-generated trash placed in the colored bags inside the receptacles. Some of the merchants tore their personal trash bags and spread the trash along the sidewalk so that the maintenance team would pick it up. McCormick stated that trash is piling up on Winston and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets; there were 15 clear bags of trash left on the southwest corner.**

**McCormick informed the Board that she contacted the New York BID to inquire about the type of trash bags used in their BID. New York stated that they use clear bags with the BID logo on the side. McCormick stated that she will look into the cost of getting the logo placed on the bags.**

**M. Shinbane added that the design of the logo on the trash bags should be in huge letters on the side of the bags.**

**McCormick reported that drinking in public and blocking the sidewalk decreased in June.**

**DID:**

**McCormick reported that the number of bulky items dumped increased in June from prior months. The BID public safety officers keep track of the areas where numerous trash bags are left behind, and most of the trash bags are a result of the feeding groups. 5<sup>th</sup> and San Pedro Streets seem to be a common place for bags from the feeders being left beside the BID trash receptacles. Bags of clothing are also dropped off on street corners in the District.**

**McCormick reported that almost all of the graffiti identified have been removed. Pictures are taken of all instances of graffiti and sent to LAPD Central Area Sgt. Pete Foster.**

**McCormick reported that year-to-date 2009 numbers are higher than year-to-date 2008. McCormick informed the Board that the public safety team has identified three pallet and paint illegal dumpers.**

**McCormick stated that LAPD Central Area is arresting people drinking in public on Fridays, and they are released on Monday. This has decreased fights in the area.**

**McCormick informed the Board that the BID public safety team is training with the LAPD on report writing and drinking in public arrests. The team learned that arrest can be made for urinating and defecating in public, however, if there is not a close in proximity restroom, or if an alley is closed, an arrest cannot be made.**

**McCormick reported that the BID identified a bank robber who had robbed several locations including City Bank. McCormick informed the Board that extra patrol was deployed on 7<sup>th</sup> Street because there had been 11-14 crimes involving guns between Spring and San Pedro Streets.**

**BID public safety officers have two more weeks to complete the certification training. All officers attended, however an**

**advanced course was offered to five officers who will act as an emergency response team who will respond to emergencies throughout Downtown.**

**McCormick informed the Board that she send a letter to the private building security guards for a meeting in August to get them acquainted with BID public safety services, as well as meet LAPD Senior Lead Officer Steve Nichols.**

## **VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

### **Repaving of Alameda Street:**

**Lopez reported that the effort to repave Alameda continues moving ahead. A company turns recycled tires into an asphalt-like material substance is interested in doing the project as a demonstration of their “green” approach. The company is based in Ontario, and will provide the material to the City of Los Angeles as a pilot project, and will remove the rail spurs for free. Lopez stated that the City contractor will be involved, and this is a realistic project. The next step would be to meet with the CRA and the Mayor.**

### **MTA Regional Connector:**

**Lopez informed the Board that on August 19, 2009 the MTA will host a meeting for the Arts District community to brief the community on the connector and its routes.**

**Doizaki stated that the Regional Connector will travel up 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Lopez added that it has not yet been determined if the line will travel above or below grade up 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.**

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**Lopez informed the Board that the Operations committee will be meeting on August 12, 2009 at 8am to discuss budget issues. She then reminded the Board that the annual meeting will take place on September 10, 2009 at 9am. Lopez asked the Board if due to August being vacation month, should the Board go dark in August. The Board agreed to go dark in August, and resume in September unless a pressing issue arises.**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting of the Board was adjourned at 1:09pm.**